



## OGDEN MUSEUM ONLINE LESSONS FOR THE CLASSROOM

### INTERIOR WITH CATI BENNY ANDREWS GRADES 2-5

#### ABOUT THE ART

Today's art inspiration, *Interior with Cat*, is a large oil and collage painting created by Benny Andrews in 1988.

Andrews used painting and collage to create art that tells stories about experiences in his life. When an artist uses more than one material in a work of art it is called **Mixed Media**. Andrews arranged objects together to create many still life paintings. A **Still Life** is a specific arrangement of objects that an artist uses as a model for making a piece of art. Artists may pay special attention to the shapes and textures they choose. They may also pay close attention to the



order in which the objects are arranged and the light that is cast on the objects. Another signature of Andrews's work is the use of collage. **Collage** is an art technique that uses cut-out and glued-down pieces of fabric, textiles or paper materials on the surface of the art object (usually two-dimensional).

Andrews was raised in Georgia and went to fine arts college at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His father George Andrews was a self-taught artist and inspired Benny to pursue his dream of making art. Benny and George made art together throughout their adult lives. Benny Andrews made a prolific amount of artwork during his lifetime. He considered his work to be an extension of his beliefs around social justice and positive community activism.

Image credit: Benny Andrews, *Interior with Cat*, 1988, Oil and collage, Gift of the Benny Andrews Foundation

#### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What objects have you chosen for your still life?
- How and where will you arrange them?
- What types of materials, cloth scraps, papers, etc. have you collected for your collage?



## **ART ACTIVITY**

### **OVERVIEW**

Students will create a still life set-up in their home with a few favorite objects. They will then create a rough sketch of the still life and fill in the drawing with collage. Students will learn about arranging objects in space, drawing large shapes, cutting out fabric and paper materials and gluing scraps down well to create a still life collage.

### **SUPPLIES**

- Thicker paper or cardboard you can glue and paint on
- White glue, glue stick or ModgePodge
- Different types of decorative and plain paper scraps (think magazines, newspapers, old wrapping or tissue paper)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- A collection of objects from around the house that the student likes
- A flat surface to set-up the Still Life
- Another area to work where students can look at the Still Life
- Paper towels or wipes for easy glue clean-up

### **PROCESS**

1. Have students choose 4-5 objects around their house that give them joy. Remind them to choose objects that vary in shape, size and texture.
2. Ask students to arrange their objects on a small table or chair in a place where the objects will not get bumped for a few hours.
3. Invite students to grab a pencil and their thick paper or cardboard and sit down to draw the main BIG shapes of the still life. Remember that this will be a collage, so remind students that they do not need to draw any details.
4. After students have sketched out the big shapes on their paper, ask them to choose paper and fabric to cover the large shapes. Remind them that they can also use collage to add movement, pattern and depth into the background of the image.
5. Ask students to glue all the pieces down well-- a combination of a glue stick and white liquid glue works best. Remind students that gluing down the edges and corners of each piece really well makes a big difference!
6. Have students complete the entire piece including collaging the background and the still life objects.
7. Have students create a title for their piece and sign and date the artwork on the back.



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## **KEY TERMS**

**Collage** a technique using cut or torn fabric or paper and glue

**Still Life** an image of objects that don't move; genre of art

**Mixed Media** more than one material used to create artwork, such as found objects and fabric

**Pattern** an underlying structure that organizes surfaces or structures in a consistent, regular manner.

**Movement** a principle of art used to create the impression of action in a work of art.

**Background** the part of the picture plane that seems to be the farthest from the viewer.

**Middle ground** area of a two-dimensional work of art between the foreground (closest) and the background (furthest receded).

**Foreground** part of a two-dimensional artwork that appears to be nearer to the viewer or "in the front" of the image.



**SEE BENNY ANDREW'S *INTERIOR WITH CAT* IN THE PERMANENT COLLECTION AT THE OGDEN MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN ART.**

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**QUESTIONS? EMAIL [EDUCATION@OGDENMUSEUM.ORG](mailto:EDUCATION@OGDENMUSEUM.ORG).**